

Finally, as I said, Joint Tax is the official revenue-estimating body of Congress. Whether we like their estimates or not, at the end of the day we all know that is the estimate we all must rely on.

I hope these facts will bring a little perspective to the debate we are having over the deficit, the effect tax cuts have on the economy and, more to the point this week, the debate over what is really a moderate and responsible proposal to reform the death tax—a proposal that deserves broad, bipartisan support.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTS DAIRY

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a business that has provided irreplaceable value to the city of Omaha, NE, for 100 years.

Roberts Dairy was founded in 1906 on a farm near the outskirts of Lincoln, NE. This is where J.R. Roberts, the company's founder, began his first retail route using a herd of 60 cows. During the first years of the company's existence, Roberts was the only dairy that sold pasteurized milk to the community.

In 1992, the company expanded to Omaha and has been expanding ever since. Roberts Dairy is a full-service dairy that processes and fills more than 900 million gallons yearly. It operates around the clock, 365 days a year, to provide the freshest dairy products to customers. Roberts serves a region that includes Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and parts of Colorado, Illinois, and South Dakota.

Roberts Dairy is one of the area's largest companies, employing more than 700 people and generating annual sales of more than \$250 million.

Roberts is a Quality Checkd® dairy, which means all of its products are produced and tested by an independent association to higher standards that exceed State and Federal requirements for purity, freshness, and flavor.

In 2004, all four of Roberts' production plants received Merit of Excellence Awards from Quality Checkd, signifying production that far surpasses the high standards necessary to be Quality Checkd dairy.

In 2004, the Iowa City plant received the Wayne Gingrich Award for Production from Quality Checkd Dairies Inc., an international organization. The plant won the award after rigorous competition among 40 dairies, each with several plants.

Roberts Dairy actively supports local and regional causes, events, and organizations that seek to help make our communities better places to live. The company also annually raises funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

This year Roberts Dairy will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. As part

of its centennial celebration, Roberts Dairy plans to host its celebration in Omaha on Sunday, September 3, 2006 prior to the annual SeptemberFest.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Roberts Dairy for their contribution to the State of Nebraska and the Midwest as a whole. The services that Roberts provide to all of its customers will continue to have a lasting impact for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA STATE AUDITOR BETH CHAPMAN

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I recently had the opportunity to speak in favor of the constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag. I was proud to be a cosponsor of that amendment, and even though it failed by a vote of 66 to 34, I do not believe it is an issue that will "go gentle into that good night," to use the words of poet Dylan Thomas. The flag is the unifying symbol of our country and all it embodies. Hundreds of thousands have died fighting to protect what it represents. It seems only logical that we, as a body, would continue to fight to protect it.

A few days after the Senate vote, I received a copy of a speech written by Alabama's state auditor, Beth Chapman. It was a speech she delivered to a meeting of the Alabama Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution—a group dedicated to promoting patriotism and preserving American history. I found it to be not only timely, but a beautifully written and passionate reminder of what the flag represents and why it should be protected. I ask that the full speech be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

FLAG DAY SPEECH

ALABAMA STATE AUDITOR BETH CHAPMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE STATE MEETING OF THE ALABAMA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The red, white and blue, the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, our Standard, the Star Spangle Banner—the American flag—it has heard the battle cry for freedom and has been the banner for democracy—it is our sacred symbol of the heart and soul of our country—our freedom.

It represents the fifty states and the blood of the men and women who died carrying it—if not on their bodies, in their hearts and souls as they fought for freedom of a nation—our nation.

Though tattered and worn, it continued to wave as 6,000 patriots died in the Revolutionary War breaking off the chains of tyranny from Great Britain.

It survived the Civil War and draped the caskets of many of the 500,000 total (some brother against brother) who fought and died defending freedom, though they disagreed on what that freedom meant—the flag continued to wave in its defense.

It soared at Gettysburg, unfurled at the Battle of the Bulge, was blood stained at Kasson, stood watch in the final hours at Pearl Harbor as hulls of ships and shells of men floated on the burning waters. It was hoisted by brave American soldiers at Iwo Jima.

Throughout history it was tested and tried on the beaches of Normandy and was triumphant on the shores of Tripoli.

It stood for justice's sake though 116,000 Americans fell in WWI and 405,000 in World War II.

It survived the numbness of frost bite in the Chosin Reservoir of the Korean Conflict and heard the brassy bugle's cry of Taps being played for more than 54,000 who lost their lives.

It proudly but sadly waves today over a wall that bears only etched names in stone of more than 58,000 faces, hearts, souls and bodies of the fallen soldiers who died in the jungles of Vietnam.

It flew for righteousness' sake mounted in the dirt of Desert Storm as 293 Americans' bodies were killed but their love for country was not captured, conquered or defeated.

Most recently it saw 1,672 Americans in Operation Iraqi Freedom die and it has covered the bodies of 190 killed in Enduring Freedom—yet the flag still endures. It still waves—restoring the foundations on which America was built and reminding us of the freedom with which we've been blessed.

And today it continues to wave, somberly but surely over the 260,000 brave and courageous veterans whose silent, sleeping spirits remain in Arlington Cemetery. They defended our freedom and determined our destiny and the destiny of our nation. Now they rest in peace while we enjoy the symbolism of the flag with as much passion as they once felt when they were defending it.

Many have spit on the flag, buried it and burned it, not realizing the freedom it represents is what allows them that right, though no matter how obnoxious and disrespectful it may be, it supposedly was right.

But what a pity they know not how much innocent blood was shed so they could have that freedom to express the bitterness, hatred and disrespect they appear to have for their own freedom and anything it represents.

Over one million men and women of the United States Military have died defending what our flag symbolizes, but others have died simply by living the American Dream which it represents—2,595 civilians at the World Trade Center on 9-11, 92 on Flight 11 and 65 on Flight 175, 125 in the Pentagon, 64 on Flight 77, and 45 on Flight 93—total of 2,986 died on that same tragic day—doing nothing but living out in their daily lives what our flag stands for—freedom. They were the innocent victims of evil people and a jealousy and hatred that comes against such a beloved freedom as ours.

And on that day when our country was at its lowest level, our spirits had plummeted; we had been wounded worse than at any time in our great nation—in the very middle of that ordeal, three exhausted New York Fireman had the foresight, the vision and the inspiration which could only be fueled physically by adrenaline, but spiritually and emotionally by raw patriotism—love of God and country—to hoist an American flag for all the world, friend and foe alike to see, so they would know we had not been defeated.

Even in the ruin and rubble, Old Glory was raised and proudly waved as she had so many times before in peace and war. She rose up out of the dust, dirt and even fire to restore the American spirit, which can not be snuffed out as a burning candle by tragedy or hatred, but is only further motivated to wave higher and further unfold to spread the news of freedom and of victory.

It symbolized freedom, hope, and determination of the American people and the strength of our spirit.

Some have purchased with blood the freedom our flag represents, other have defended it—and by the grace of God those of us in this room have been blessed to simply live under it in the greatest country on the face of the earth.

And it costs most of us nothing and that's why it should have our utmost honor and respect. For the same exact flag many not have been through all the battles, but what it represents has been, and that is more than anyone person can say.

The flag has seen it all and survived it all, therefore, the spirit and freedom which it represents has survived it all. It is the epitome of the sacred symbol we know it to be.

It stands atop the United States Supreme Court building as justice attempts to be served; it stands over the United States Capitol in hopes of good laws being passed and bad ones being killed.

It stands in schoolyards as children play, over Court Houses and City Halls as good grassroots government is hopefully being administered. It drapes the shoulders of our country's finest athletes as they represent us at the Olympics.

But let us not forget that it has also left this earth to represent us, to fly into the Heavens and land on the moon. It has flown into the wild blue yonder far into the majestic skies reaching toward the very face of God, only to explode, and quickly plummet into the sea with the Challenger and the brave Americans in it.

There is little of our heritage that it has not seen; there are fewer of our victories, triumphs, and tragedies that it has not experienced first hand. It has waved at half mast and at full mast, but it has never ceased to wave.

It is not to be burned or buried, but flown with great pride and admiration. Some say it is not the flag, but what it represents that we should honor—I say we cannot honor one without a pledge of allegiance to the other.

The Pledge of Allegiance nationally debuted in October 1892 on Columbus Day when 12 million children across America recited it for the first time.

The Pledge of Allegiance has had three major changes:

Originally it read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

June 14, 1923, it was revised to "the flag" instead of "my flag" and the words "United States" were added.

One year later it was revised to read "the flag, of the United States of America."

But the most significant change came on Flag Day, June 14, 1954, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower added these two simple, but profound words: "Under God."

And this is what he said about adding those two words: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

The Pledge of Allegiance as we know it today is only 31 words packed with pride, honor, loyalty and devotion.

Red Skelton, a brilliant comedic mind of another generation shared this story on television many years ago. Little did he know this story would be so poignant and prophetic today. He shared the story of his teacher Mr. Laswell who came to think his class was just saying the pledge of allegiance out of routine so he made a drastic change in their schedule one day. This is what he said to them:

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word."

I—me, an individual, a committee of one.
Pledge—dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity,

Allegiance—my love and devotion

To the flag—our standard, old glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's been respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

United—that means we all have come together.

States—individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose and that's love for country.

And to the Republic—a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chose by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands, one nation—one nation meaning "so blessed by God."

Indivisible—incapable of being divided.

With liberty—which is freedom—the right of power to live one's life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation

And justice—the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all—which means boys, and girls, it's as much your country as mine.

Skelton later said since he was a young boy that two states had been added to our country and that two words had been added to our pledge—"Under God."

Then he smiled and said, "Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that (those two words "Under God") is a prayer and they would eliminate it from schools too?"

Little did he know that now, many years later, that very effort has been discussed before the United States Supreme Court.

Though the words to the Pledge of Allegiance have changed its purpose, meaning and intent has not.

But the flag still waves and our nation is still one nation under God and we still live under the banner of democracy and the flag waves in our churches, school yards, state and national government buildings and always in our hearts and homes—because that's where freedom originated and that is where it must remain.

When we pledge allegiance to our flag, we are making a commitment, and what we are committed to is what we become as individual people, and as a nation. The destinies of many nations have been determined by what their people were allegiant to—Rome is a good example of that. Let America never become a Rome.

Our flag is more than three colors of cloth and millions of pieces of thread sown by hand. It is more than Betsy Ross and Francis Scott Key. It represents a message of hope and freedom that is carried in the hearts and souls of the people of a nation for generations.

I pray today that God will continue to bless this country and that we may never divorce ourselves from the preservation of that freedom for which our men and women have died and our flag still boldly stands.

Now let us stand and with great pride, honor, humility and resolve—with great enthusiasm, fervor, patriotism, passion and respect to say our pledge of allegiance together as we have never said it before.●

TRIBUTE TO GALELYN MCELROY

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Ms. Galelyn McElroy from Prospect, KY, who has been selected to participate in the inaugural year of the American Civic Education Teacher Awards. This program is de-

signed to promote recognition and respect for teachers of civic education across the United States.

The American Civic Education Teacher Awards are a part of the Alliance for Representative Democracy which is designed to educate Americans about the relationship between the government and the American people it serves. This program helps individuals better understand the way the government works and how it relates to them personally in their individual lives.

Ms. McElroy teaches senior legal and government services, U.S. history, and world civilization at Central High in Prospect, KY, and has been providing educational leadership in the classroom there for 13 years. She has gone above and beyond the curriculum expectations by establishing out of school mentoring experiences for her students at local law firms and legal study programs through the University of Louisville. She motivates them to think about the future by providing them with real-world experiences that partner with their civic education studies.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. McElroy for her commitment to making Kentucky a better place through educational excellence and for providing her students the motivation to succeed in life. I know I can speak for all Kentuckians when I say congratulations and thank you for everything that you do. Teachers like Ms. McElroy are an inspiration and a true example of leadership in our State.●

RECOGNIZING WISE COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the sesquicentennial anniversary of historic Wise County. The centennial celebration has created and will continue to create community awareness of opportunities for the preservation of Wise County's rich heritage. In addition, this event will foster pride in Wise County's educational, cultural, social, and economic resources and will encourage the brainstorming of ways to ensure a bright future for Wise County.

Throughout the year Wise County has come up with exciting ways to celebrate its centennial birthday. In May there was a kickoff ceremony to begin the celebration, as well as a Business Appreciation Day. Other presentations include a play on the history of Wise County, a Miss Sesquicentennial Pageant, and a presentation of Coal Camp Songs. The celebration will culminate with the 150th Birthday Bash on from noon until 11:00 pm on August 12 at the Lonesome Pine Raceway, which will feature food, games, music and fun.

The sesquicentennial celebration of Wise County is a great way to remember its history, appreciate its current state, and look forward to its bright future. Over the years, I have enjoyed